24 March 1983

His Excellency Mr Sjahabuddin Arifin
Indonesian Embassy
38 Grosvenor Square
London W1

Excellency,

Information has reached us concerning the impending execution of Timzar Zubil, and I write to Your Excellency to plead that you use your influence urgently with the authorities in Indonesia to obtain a stay of execution.

We understand that Timzar Zubil was convicted under the Ant-Subversion Law for upholding Islamic law, and that an appeal to the President has been rejected.

We understand also that the trial in question was irregular in that the defendant was not permitted to choose his own defence counsel, these being instead court appointees.

In view of this, and of the fact that the case seems to concern the basic human right of a person to freedom of expression and belief, rather than the commission of a crime, we urge you to approach your government, in the interests of the good name of Indonesia in international world opinion, to order a re-trial at which Timzar Zubil is accorded the facilities which would be his right under international law.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General